REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed January 28, 2008 in which Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17, and 20 were allowed and Claims 21-27 were rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability for Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17, and 20.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21, 23, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Field (GB Patent Application Publication 2 364 850). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 21, 23 and 25-27. Field fails to teach all of the elements of claims 21-27..

Specifically, Field fails to disclose "adjusting a speaking rate of the new voice message to a selected speaking rate for playback", as in Claim 21. Field teaches "an algorithm is programmed to calculate the word rate of the telephone call and assign a category to the message according to whether this rate is above or below a threshold value." Field, page 6, lines 11-13; also see Field, page 9, lines 15-25. Thus, Field merely discloses determining a word rate of a call and assigning a category to the call based on a comparison to a threshold. However, Field does not disclose adjusting the word rate of the call to a "selected speaking rate for playback." Field fails to provide any mention of adjusting the rate; rather Field only measures the word rate to assign a category to the call.

Therefore, Field fails to disclose all of the elements of Claim 21 and, thus, also fails to disclose all of the elements of Claims 22-27 that are dependent claims depending from Claim 23.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Field in view of St. John (WIPO PCT Publication WO 01/16936 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 22.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Field fails to disclose all of the elements of Claim 21. In addition, St. John also fails to teach, either alone or in combination with Field, at least the same elements of Claim 21 that Field fails to teach. Accordingly, Claim 22 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from Claim 21.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Field in view of Official Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 24.

Applicants respectfully and adequately traverse the Examiner's use of Official Notice and request the Examiner provide evidence to support any further use of Official Notice. The Examiner has erred in that Official Notice was not taken to the specific claim language of "providing an unknown output when speaker identity is determined to be unknown and further comprising: receiving a user input indicative of a speaker identity for the new voice message; and training a speaker identification model based on the new voice message and the user input", as in Claim 24. Instead, Official Notice was taken to "well-known train speaker identification model." Thus, the Official Notice is insufficient to be used as a basis for the rejection of Claim 24.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Field fails to disclose all of the elements of Claim 21. In addition, the Official Notice also fails to teach, either alone or in combination with Field, at least the same elements of Claim 21 that Field fails to teach. Accordingly, Claim 24 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from Claim 21.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested. If the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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